

## Chapter VI

### Community Facilities

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Quality community facilities and services benefit the overall community and affect the quality of life in the City and County. This chapter includes recommendations for major community facilities. The facilities discussed are: parks and recreation, education, libraries, public safety and health services, cultural facilities and other public buildings and facilities.

Community facilities include the broad range of capital improvements which serve the community's needs for recreation, education, information, safety and culture. The services and opportunities provided by community facilities, and access to them, directly impact the quality of life in the community. Meeting the increasing community facilities demands is one of the major challenges facing a growing community.

It is also important to note that community facilities include both capital and operating costs. Indeed, over the life cycle of a facility, operating costs have a much larger budgetary impact than the initial cost of development. Thus, in addition to proposing new or expanded facilities, the comprehensive plan must examine ways to provide services more efficiently, benefitting the greatest number of people with available resources. When community facilities are expanded, a plan for adequate and continued funding for operation and maintenance should be included in the plan.

#### A. Parks and Recreation

##### *Goals*

- ! Identify, through multi-agency cooperation, existing or potential open areas within Downtown Lincoln, existing and developing neighborhoods, county communities and the county proper for acquisition and development.*
- ! Continue to provide new facilities, and expand and renovate existing facilities to provide for the year-round multiplicity of recreation opportunities.*
- ! Develop recreation programs to meet the needs and interests of the community.*
- ! Encourage the growth of Lincoln and Lancaster County's sports industry.*
- ! Encourage cooperation among existing sports organizations, both amateur and professional. Encourage public agencies and private groups to aid these organizations in bringing major state, regional and national events to Lincoln and Lancaster County.*

##### **1. County Parks and Future Needs**

The County does not directly operate parks or provide recreational programs. The County has acquired some parkland in the past, such as Wilderness Park, and has contracted with the City for operation and maintenance of those parklands. Close cooperation between the City and the County for the enhancement of recreational opportunities in the County should be encouraged.

Several of the incorporated communities in the County operate and maintain their own parks and recreational facilities. In most cases, parkland deficiencies in these communities could be met by the provision of small neighborhood parks or use of existing available school sites and facilities.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resource District manages several small flood control structures in the southern portion of the County, conceivably such areas hold considerable potential for providing some recreational facilities.

Whereas much of the planning for park and recreational facilities in the Lincoln urban area has been based upon quantifiable standards, this is not the case regarding park needs in the unincorporated areas of the County. Consideration should be given to the desire of the County residents to maintain public use of and access to areas of relatively high amenity or unique environmental characteristics. To this end, the plan for county parks and recreation proposes the following long-range actions:

- expansion of parklands, including the expansion of Wilderness Park south through Roca, generally terminating in the vicinity of Martell Road.
- public acquisition of areas of natural prairie grass stands located in the southwest and northwest portions of the County.
- acquisition or protection of flood prone areas abutting Haines Branch, Stevens Creek, and Little Salt Creek. These areas will serve as environmental open space and parklands when urbanization expands beyond the current planning area. The exact limits of these areas should be determined through further study.
- purchase of open space easements or other techniques for providing "access points" to and protection of the tributaries of Salt Creek, including portions of Little Nemaha, Middle Creek, Oak Creek, and Elk Creek.
- purchase or creation of easements along a number of creeks that are considered to be of high amenity or have unique environmental qualities. In addition to those creeks already mentioned, this would include the Big Nemaha River, Olive Branch, Cardwell Branch, Jordan Creek, and Rock Creek.
- development of bike-hike trail easements along selected county roads also should be considered in order to provide a continuous system of recreational trails incorporating the creeks, lakes, and county roads.
- participate in partnerships with other government agencies and the Great Plains Trails Network to purchase or railbank railroad rights-of-way abandoned or scheduled for abandonment for developing recreational bike-hike trails as a part of total recreational systems in the County. Potential future opportunities include the Lincoln to Nebraska City Burlington Northern line and the Lincoln to Valparaiso and Wahoo Union Pacific branches. Coordinate regional trails development with the comprehensive plan for the State of Nebraska. Participate in the inter-modal transportation and multi-use development of strategic corridors.

In the acquisition and development of the rural recreational and open space system, particular attention should be paid to opportunities for consolidation of farm lands and to provisions for farm access.

## 2. **Environmental Resources of the County**

In addition to lands already mentioned as recreation sites, Lancaster County contains a number of environmental resources with significant recreation potential. These include water bodies and streams, floodplains, woodlands, scenic areas, wildlife habitats, and other natural features. Several of these key environmental resources are identified as either "Parks and Open Space" or "Natural/Environmentally Sensitive" on the land use maps (Chapter III, pages 38 and 39). Resources become most significant when they coincide and overlap, thus creating "environmental corridors." Additional studies and area plans should be developed to evaluate the potentials for environmental resources in the County.

The various categories of environmental resources are discussed below.

- Water Bodies. The Salt Valley reservoirs already have become regional recreational attractions. The grade stabilization structures operated by the Natural Resources District provide quality fishing and could perhaps be developed for additional activities. The County also contains over 400 miles of warm-water streams. Most streams do not provide quality fishing. Stream courses, however, especially where they overlap with other environmental resources, could become linear recreational corridors oriented to a variety of other activities.
- Floodplains. There is strong potential for occasional flooding of selected areas of the County due to the low, flat character of some portions of the land. Extensive development within floodplains decreases the water retention capabilities of the land and can cause serious flooding downstream. Floodplains, which often contain a number of unique environmental features, could become valuable resources for certain types of recreation.
- Woodlands. Natural woodlands are scarce. Only one percent of the total county land area remains in woodland. Tree stands, usually found along stream beds, provide unique visual relief from the predominant croplands and sustain significant wildlife populations. Properly managed, wooded floodplains constitute one of the County's key recreational resources. Reforestation and tree planting in both rural and urban areas should be encouraged.
- Scenic Areas. Wilderness Park, a 1,472 acre natural area, is a major resource within the region. It contains an extensive mixed timber stand and a free-flowing stream. The area should be developed in keeping with its wilderness character.
- Natural Areas. Natural areas contain some plant species which once dominated the region. Small rock outcroppings and other geological formations remain in the southern portion of the County. These features, protected and undisturbed, represent valuable resources.
- Abandoned Railroad Corridors. The abandoned railroad rights-of-way represent key recreational opportunities which could be developed as recreational corridors, linking existing and future recreational facilities.

### 3. Lincoln Parks, Recreation and Open Space

The location and effectiveness of open space and leisure opportunities can have a significant impact on the form and function of communities. These spaces and opportunities improve the quality of life and environment in the built city. Lincoln residents consider parks and recreation as an important contribution to the quality of life in this community.

The City of Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department faces the challenge of providing high-quality opportunities for recreation and developing our parks and recreation facilities at the same pace, and with the same vigor, as other community growth. The growth of our community is seen as incomplete without the coordinated growth of the parks and recreation system. Growth pressures are increased by the use of city parks and recreational facilities by non-city residents who do not share in the cost of the facility's development, operation or maintenance. As park use increases, the need for adequate parking and/or dropoff sites also increases. Parking and transportation needs for dropoff sites need to be addressed.

The working goals of the City/County Common are summarized below in five action steps:

- 1) Contribute to the betterment of the quality of life in Lincoln and Lancaster County by coordinating the development of a comprehensive, nondiscriminatory system of recreation and leisure services involving both current and potential, public and private service providers. Both public and private service providers play a major role in the delivery of recreational and leisure services to the Lincoln community. Every effort should be made for collaboration and coordination between the public and private sector. The City and County should encourage the private sector to provide affordable recreational services before utilization of tax dollars.

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department's specific objectives are:

To provide a diverse program of structured and non-structured recreational services.

To acquire and promote the use of a network of parks, open spaces, recreational trails and greenbelts.

To provide a wide range of high quality, well maintained, and accessible public recreational facilities.

To protect important natural environments.

To ensure equal opportunity in recreation participation, regardless of race, income, gender, age, geographic location or physical ability.

- 2) Protect and enhance the neighborhood spirit in Lincoln through the awareness of unique geographical and cultural sub-communities.

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department's specific objectives are:

To acquire and develop parks of an appropriate scale and function at the neighborhood level.

To establish additional community recreation centers designed to meet current before and after school child care needs and in the future to be usable as senior centers as populations shift.

To continue the cooperative efforts with the Lincoln Public Schools to develop joint facilities.

To coordinate with existing neighborhood associations on planning and development projects which are within their sphere of influence.

To expand the Neighborhood Self-Help Program.

- 3) To provide leadership for the community in the maintenance of a vital and harmonious environment by seeking a balance between constructed and natural systems.

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department's specific objectives are:

To identify and manage in the public interest unique natural, cultural and historic areas within Lincoln and Lancaster County, particularly saline wetlands and the areas along natural waterways.

To manage and maintain existing parkland and public tree resources in a manner sensitive to the demands of the users and of the natural environment.

To participate in the development of alternative transportation networks for pedestrians and bikers.

- 4) Promote natural, fiscal and human resource conservation by coordinating and collaborating with other recreational service providers and public entities and by eliminating wasteful and inefficient use of resources.

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department's specific objectives are:

To avoid the duplication of services and to not compete with the private and semi-private sector.

To provide incentives for employees to be energy efficient by evaluating departmental practices.

To utilize appropriate new technologies on all new facility designs to achieve greater energy conservation.

- 5) Uphold the public trust by being aware of and responsive to the recreation needs and desires of the citizens of Lincoln and Lancaster County through a departmental program of citizen participation.

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department's specific objectives are:

To maintain an open dialogue with neighborhood associations.

To incorporate the goals of the City/County Commons into our strategic plan.

To encourage volunteerism.

To utilize citizen input through the Park and Recreation Advisory board, the Community Forestry Advisory Board, the Recreational Trails Advisory Committee, and the County Ecological Committee.

The chart on the following page shows the major providers of park and recreational facilities within the Lancaster County boundaries. Lancaster County (Wilderness Park), Lincoln Public Schools, UNL and any other colleges and several private organizations also own or maintain recreational facilities that can be used by those who are affiliated with the institution or those that can afford the entrance fee. This list does not include private clubs, private golf courses, or land owned by neighborhood associations. (Amendment 9416)

Within the City limits, Lincoln has 2,160 acres of land developed into parks. Another 1,330 acres of city-owned developed parkland is outside the City limits, providing about 18 acres of park land development per 1,000 Lincoln residents (Figure 54).

The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department plays the key role in the delivery of recreational services to the community. Lincoln has a strong reputation for providing a high number of park acres per capita and is dedicated to maintaining that excellence as the community grows. The Department first completed a Strategic Plan in 1994 in order to implement many of the community's parks and recreation goals. The Lincoln Parks and Recreation Department Strategic Plan is hereby incorporated by reference as an approved component of the Plan. (Amendment 9423)

**1994 LINCOLN CITY - LANCASTER COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN**

<b>Provider:</b>	<b>Acres:</b>	<b>Trails - Miles</b>	<b>Pools:</b>	<b>Golf Courses</b>	<b>Sq. Ft.</b>	<b>Gyms</b>
City of Lincoln	4,228	56	9	4-18 1-9	92,527	5
Lancaster County (Wilderness Park)	1,455					
Lower Platte South NRD	1,055	6				
Nebr. Game & Parks (owned)	6,180					
Nebr. Game & Parks (leased)	14,485					
Lincoln Public Schools	468		4			45
YMCA	67		2		74,577	
YWCA			1		40,000	
Capitol Soccer (in develop.)	100					
Optimist Baseball (in develop.)	42					

NOTE: Deduct from the City total: Boosalis Park (748.5 Acres) which is not usable as park land at this time and Fairview Cemetery (15.0 Acres) which is maintained by the Parks Department but not usable as park land.

We have four different types of parks--mini-parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, and regional parks--and also many special purpose facilities located with these parks, i.e. Woods Park Tennis Bubbles, Hyde Observatory, Folsom Children's Zoo, etc. These parks and facilities can be classified by size, population served, service area and type of facilities:

**a. Park Classification and Location**

1) Mini-Park

Description: Small areas intended primarily for the use of children up to early elementary grades. Located in high density areas. Examples: Peach Park, Sunburst Park, Lintel Park, etc.

Contents: Play apparatus, swings, slides, sandboxes, benches, landscaping.

Population served: Toddlers to age 9. Should be combined with adult gathering areas.

Service area: Sub-neighborhood. 500-2000 people within 1/4 mile radius.

2) Neighborhood Park

Designed for both active and passive short term activities. Often adjacent to public school sites. Examples: Roberts Park, Havelock Park.

Content: Distinct play areas for both pre-school and school age children. Some shelter structures, open space for spontaneous play, and multi-use paved areas for court games. There is space for field games, and possibly an ice rink. Limited off-street parking may be provided. Typically there are some wooded areas, and the perimeter is landscaped.

Population served: For all ages, but focus on ages 5-39 with emphasis on ages 5-18.

Service area: Neighborhood. 1,000 to 10,000 residents within 1/2 mile radius. Easy and safe walking distances.

CHAPTER VI - COMMUNITY FACILITIES

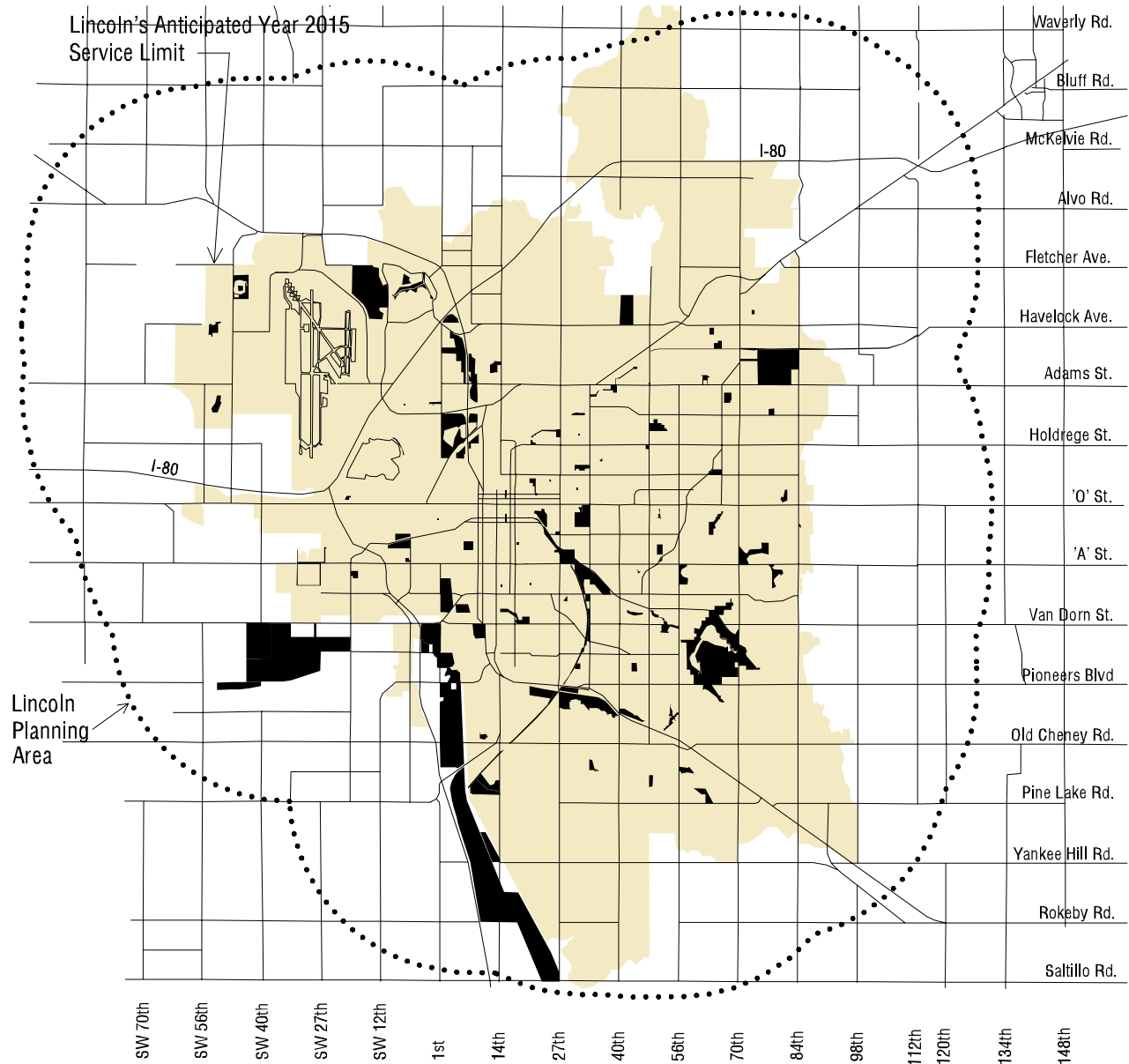


Figure 54

## Existing Park Land



## Lincoln City/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan

 Existing Park Land

3) Community Park

Description: Designed to accommodate large numbers of people for a wide variety of day uses. Provides for both intensive uses and passive pursuits. Examples: University Place, Woods, Ballard, Belmont.

Content: Large play apparatus, bike trails, swimming pools, picnic areas, and rest rooms. Also have volleyball courts, tennis courts, and ball diamonds with lighting. Gardens, golf courses, and shelters are found, as well as food concession stands. Exercise trails are developed in these parks.

Population served: All ages, toddler to retiree. Usually serve between 40,000 to 75,000 people, who reside throughout the community.

Service area: Community-wide: Up to 30 minutes travel time.

Figure 55 identifies potential sites for these parks based upon current and projected needs. It is important to identify and acquire these sites prior to development so that future neighbors understand that many of the components of a Community Park, such as athletic lighting, swimming pools, picnic areas, and the comings-and-goings of the park users themselves will be present at some future time.

4) Regional Park

Description: Many activities, centered around the natural environment, sometimes with an emphasis placed on preserving natural landscape. Serve as greenbelts in some communities. Example: Wilderness Park.

Contents: Parking areas, picnic areas, trail systems, horse trails, but notably absent are lighted activities, ball fields, and areas for highly concentrated recreation activities.

Population served: All age groups.

Service area: Regional: Within a one hour travel radius.

Because of the difficulty in obtaining the needed acres for a Regional Park, we must target locations long before development of the park itself is needed. The commitment for a Regional Park involves many different players such as the Lower Platte South NRD, the State Game and Parks Commission, the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County, all working towards a common goal. Figure 55 shows locations that would be suitable for these facilities.

5) Special Purpose Facilities

Description: Chief feature is uniqueness. These are our Pinewood Bowl, Pioneers Park Nature Center, Hyde Observatory, Woods Tennis Bubbles, Folsom Children's Zoo, Camp A Way, Sherman Field, and the Lincoln Baseball/Softball Complex. (Amendment 9446)

Contents: Rest rooms, linear bike trails, parking, historical markers.

Population served: Regional: May attract people from outside area.



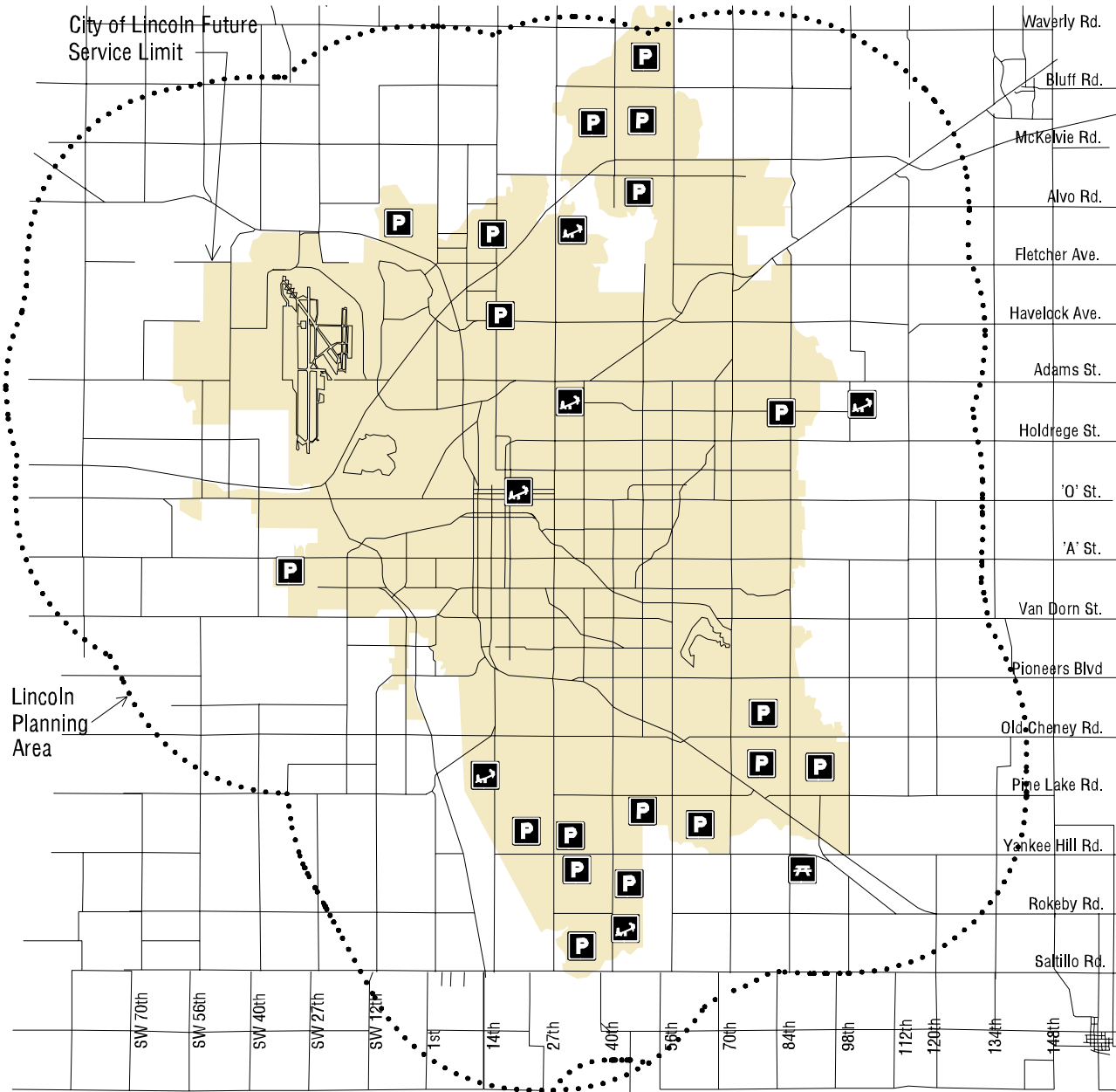





Figure 55

# *Proposed Regional Park, Community Parks and Neighborhood Parks*



## **Lincoln City/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan**

-  *Proposed Regional Park*
-  *Proposed Community Parks*
-  *Proposed Neighborhood Parks*

*(Exact park locations may vary.  
Locations subject to further study.)*



**Strategies:**

- Develop neighborhood parks to serve new community growth. Projected development will require new neighborhood parks, in developing areas throughout Lincoln (see Figure 55). (Amendment 9416)
- Identify and acquire community park sites in advance of development. Projected development will generate a demand for four community parks, two to serve south and southeast development, one in the Stevens Creek watershed, and one in north-central Lincoln (see Figure 55).
- Create a regional coalition to acquire a regional park site to serve the community. Such a site is projected for the Stevens Creek watershed, east of the cordon area (see Figure 55).
- Link new parks into the community's trails and greenway system, to extend the service area of each facility.
- Maintain high standards for upkeep and repair in existing parks within established parts of the City.

- b. Recreational Trails.** Recreational trails offer a broad variety of benefits for our community, providing not only recreation, but also a safe transportation network for bikers and walkers. They also provide buffers and green space for wildlife, separate commercial areas from residential areas, and provide tree masses throughout the community. Successful trail systems lower noise and air pollution while serving as alternative transportation corridors. The existing trails master plan, which connects existing trail segments, must be implemented with the adoption of this plan. It provides access to existing trails, new parks, new commercial areas, and new school sites in new neighborhoods.

Through joint efforts of the City, public agencies such as the Lower Platte South NRD, and private partners like the Great Plains Trails Network, Lincoln has developed an exemplary urban trails system. This system functions as part of the community's urban transportation triad, providing transportation routes to activity centers all around the City. In addition, the trails network reaches out to the surrounding region, with the development of inter-nodal facilities such as the MoPac East Trail.

**Strategies:**

- Continue implementation of Lincoln's Trails Master Plan.
- Maintain and expand partnerships with public and private agencies toward trails development.
- Integrate trails into the expansion of the park system, as well as into development of new neighborhoods and subordinate mixed use areas.
- Program trails development as part of the City's transportation capital program as well as its recreational effort. Include trails and linear parks in the development of new major transportation projects, such as Antelope Valley and the South and East Beltways. Develop relationships with other entities, such as the Lower Platte South NRD for the operation and maintenance of the trails and parkway associated with the Antelope Valley project.(Amendment 9460)

- c. Park, Recreation and Open Space Improvement Plan.** Population growth and shifts in recreational patterns will have significant impact on the existing system of parklands. To serve the future urban area, the system must provide sites which are of sufficient size and which are developed and located to meet these changing demands. Basic components of the future urban park system include:

- ! development, maintenance and operation of active recreational opportunities for all City residents of the community.

- ! continued development of the Crescent Green Park system including: Interstate 80 and Oak Lake Park; connection between Pioneers Park and Wilderness Park; and development of a linear park along Salt Creek between Wilderness Park and Boosalis Park.

- ! development of a linear park system following stream courses, particularly where flood prone areas are present, and use of the linear parks for open space, hiking, riding, and bicycling. Such a system includes: Beals Slough between Pine Lake Road and its confluence with Salt Creek; Rock Creek; Middle Creek; Haines Branch; and Antelope Creek, between 84th Street and its confluence with Salt Creek; and Dead Man's Run.(Amendment 9460)
- ! anticipated development of a linear park between Wilderness Park and Antelope Park following the old Rock Island Railroad right-of-way. This corridor could be used for both leisure and transportation purposes by providing uses such as bikeways, hiking-jogging trails, and bridle paths for horses and horse-drawn wagons.
- Implement the subarea plan for Wilderness Park which addresses land use, stormwater, transportation and park use issues in and around the park. Encourage recommended mitigating measures to respect the sensitivity of the natural environment. (Amendment 9423, 9442)

More detailed and in-depth studies are needed to determine specific park sites, facility needs, and financing strategies for acquiring and developing parklands. Some of these studies can be conducted in connection with the development of area plans for newly developing areas.

Lincoln's constantly growing population and expanding boundaries require continuous acquisition of additional park areas. In looking for new lands, the emphasis shall continue to be on areas suitable for neighborhood parks. The Lincoln park system is founded on the principle of these neighborhood parks. Although costing more to maintain than centralized, larger community parks, there is a continual demand for new neighborhood parks in every new area of the City.

The growth in our community has strained the community's ability to provide adequate funding for parks, challenging the traditional ways of funding park land acquisition. Lincoln cannot meet its current recreational needs within existing funding streams. Waiting lists exist for virtually all outdoor activities. Many park sites in south and east Lincoln are forced to operate well above the capacity they were designed for. Still, residents continue to request yet more and more specialized recreational facilities.

Each new development, as did all past development, generates an increased need for park and recreation spaces. When these are not provided, the overuse of existing facilities results. Public officials may need to look for alternatives to outright purchase of park lands. New approaches to land acquisition that equitably spread the costs of providing the new spaces should be examined, such as:

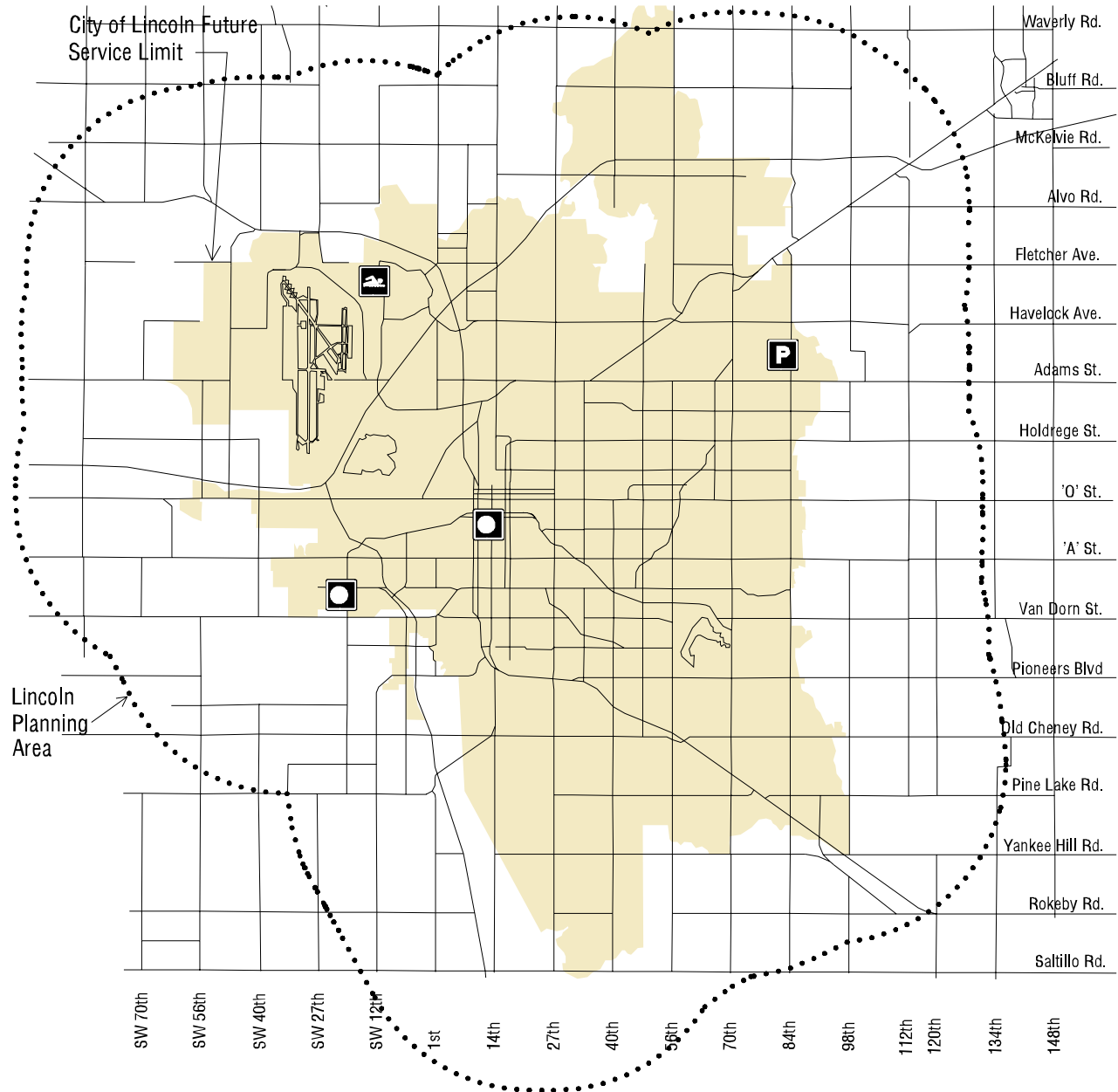
- ! Joint developments with the private sector;
- ! Incentives to developers providing park land in the platting process, and;
- ! Creating assessment districts for park acquisition and development.

- d. **Community Centers/Recreation Center.** During the time span of this planning document, additional community centers should be constructed by the City. The locations of these proposed centers are shown on Figure 56. In addition, recreation centers should be built in northeast and southeast Lincoln, in locations yet to be determined. (Amendment 9430)

1) Special Facilities

Members of our community have pointed to a need for the following facilities:

- \* Family Aquatic Center (completed in 1996) (Amendment 9423)
- \* Youth Soccer Fields
- \* Baseball and Softball Fields (Amendment 9430)



**Figure 56**

## ***Proposed Recreational Facilities***



# **Lincoln City/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan**



*Proposed Community Rec Center*



*Proposed Neighborhood Outdoor Pool*



*Proposed Community Outdoor Pool*

*(Exact facility locations may vary.  
Locations subject to further study.)*

- 2) **Swimming Pools**  
 Lincoln has developed only one new pool, Star City Shores Family Aquatic Center, since 1976, putting us far behind the demand that has come with our growth over the past two decades. (Amendment 9423)
  - ! One major community-wide facility is needed, which need was met with the opening of Star City Shores in 1996. (Amendment 9423)
  - One neighborhood swimming pool should be built next in the northwest portion of Lincoln. (Amendment 9423)
  - ! One community swimming pool in northeast Lincoln. (Amendment 9430)
  - ! One community swimming pool is southeast Lincoln. (Amendment 9430)

#### 4. **Other Public, Semipublic, and Private Facilities**

Not all the parks and recreational facilities in Lancaster County are under the jurisdiction of the City's Parks and Recreation Department. Those facilities under the control of public schools, the state, other units of government, and private interests also must be considered. These agencies maintain land and facilities which allow for a wide range of recreational opportunities and conduct programs for a variety of recreational activities.

The Lincoln Public Schools (School District No. 1 of Lancaster County) plays a key role in the overall system of recreational facilities and services. The direct combination of schools, recreation and park sites, plus facilities and programs supported by the Lincoln Public Schools and the City's Parks and Recreation Department has long been a practice in Lincoln. Schools and their sites are focal points for surrounding neighborhoods. In addition to their primary educational roles, schools provide facilities which support a variety of functions. School playgrounds and facilities can be the most significant recreation resource at the neighborhood level. The land use plan and identified neighborhood park deficiencies should be considered when selecting future school sites. Further, joint-use facilities between the public schools and other public and quasi-public entities should be encouraged whenever possible.

During the 1960's, the Corps of Engineers constructed a number of dams in Lancaster County for flood control and conservation purposes. Seven of these lakes (Blue Stem, Branched Oak, Conestoga, Olive Creek, Pawnee, Stagecoach, and Wagon Train) are managed by the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission. These state recreation areas, consisting of more than 11,000 acres of land and water bodies, provide for a variety of recreational activities such as boating, swimming, water skiing, picnicking, fishing, and hunting. These facilities can partially fulfill the needs for regional parks in Lancaster County. In addition, the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission manages seven wildlife management areas in the County. Included in this category are such areas as wildlife refuges, game management areas, access sites to reservoirs or rivers, natural areas, and reservoirs which have received only minimal development.

Colleges and universities also provide a wide range of participant activities and spectator sports available to both students and the community. Major sports, music, and entertainment programs often are held in facilities owned by colleges and universities. Their impact on and contribution to the overall recreational system is significant.

The City of Lincoln, the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Nebco, Inc. have created a public-private partnership to develop a baseball/softball complex for minor league baseball, University of Nebraska men's baseball and women's softball, and other local, regional and state tournaments. (Amendment 9446)

The YMCA and YWCA organizations sponsor programs in swimming, athletics, arts and crafts, camp, and various club activities and provide facilities for more casual recreational activities. Similar programs and facilities also are offered by other public and private agencies. Some examples of private sector recreation facilities include bowling alleys, sport courts, gyms and athletic clubs and the privately owned golf and miniature golf courses.

The Antelope Valley project includes a strategy to assist in the development and implementation of plans for community facilities that provide a broad range of services including, but not limited to health care, child care, adult care, cultural activities and continuing education. (Amendment 9460)



## B. Schools

### Goals

- ! *Assure that graduates at all levels of education have employable skills and knowledge to sustain the area economy and high quality of life.*
- ! *Establish Lincoln and Lancaster County as the model education center for Nebraska and for the nation.*
- ! *Consider education as a key to economic development.*
- ! *Assure that all individuals have access to high-quality education.*
- ! *Promote the development, design, and use of public and private facilities to assure cooperative planning and maximum utilization, when appropriate.*
- ! *Promote cooperation among all education agencies and institutions in the County to enhance programs and minimize duplication and encourage programs and coordination that promote schools as the center of neighborhoods.*
- ! *Enhance the academic environment by setting high moral, ethical and academic standards, and by increasing support and recognition of academic achievement.*
- ! *Encourage necessary expansion of education facilities while remaining sensitive to the surrounding neighborhoods.*
- ! *Provide universities, colleges and the community with a means by which university research findings can move easily into the commercial world for economic development.*
- ! *Promote the location of new school facilities throughout the community, constructed according to a comprehensive long range plan, and designed to satisfy instructional goals, long term occupancy, ease of maintenance and potential community use.*
- ! *Distribute regular school facilities throughout the community in coordination with the Comprehensive Plan in a manner which would provide for reasonable and efficient service areas.*
- ! *Provide people of all ages, backgrounds and interests with a variety of year-round educational programs and recreational opportunities that increase awareness and appreciation of Lincoln's and Lancaster County's unique natural environment.*
- ! *Encourage new and existing businesses to actively recruit and train students from Nebraska's colleges and universities in an attempt to retain our young people in the state.*

There are 13 public school districts serving Lancaster County (see Figure 57), a number of private and parochial schools and four major post-secondary institutions: University of Nebraska at Lincoln (with two campuses: Downtown and East), Nebraska Wesleyan University, Union College and Southeast Community College. Figure 58 shows the location of existing and future Lincoln Public Schools (LPS) educational facilities. Additionally, there are several business, industrial, technical, and trade schools located in Lincoln which provide educational opportunities to area residents. (Amendment 9416)

### Strategies:

- E Coordinate school site selection with subarea plans and with community open space and trails system. Develop new schools on sites where they act as focuses for neighborhoods.
- E During the planning period, program for the site acquisition and/or construction of future school facilities to meet probable growth demand.
- E Encourage cooperative planning and site development between the City, UNL and other public and private educational institutions.
- E Notify and invite comment from school districts. (Amendment 9416)

## C. Libraries

### Goal

- ! *Promote the Lincoln City libraries as a critical resource for the community to pursue knowledge, ideas and opportunities for life long learning.*



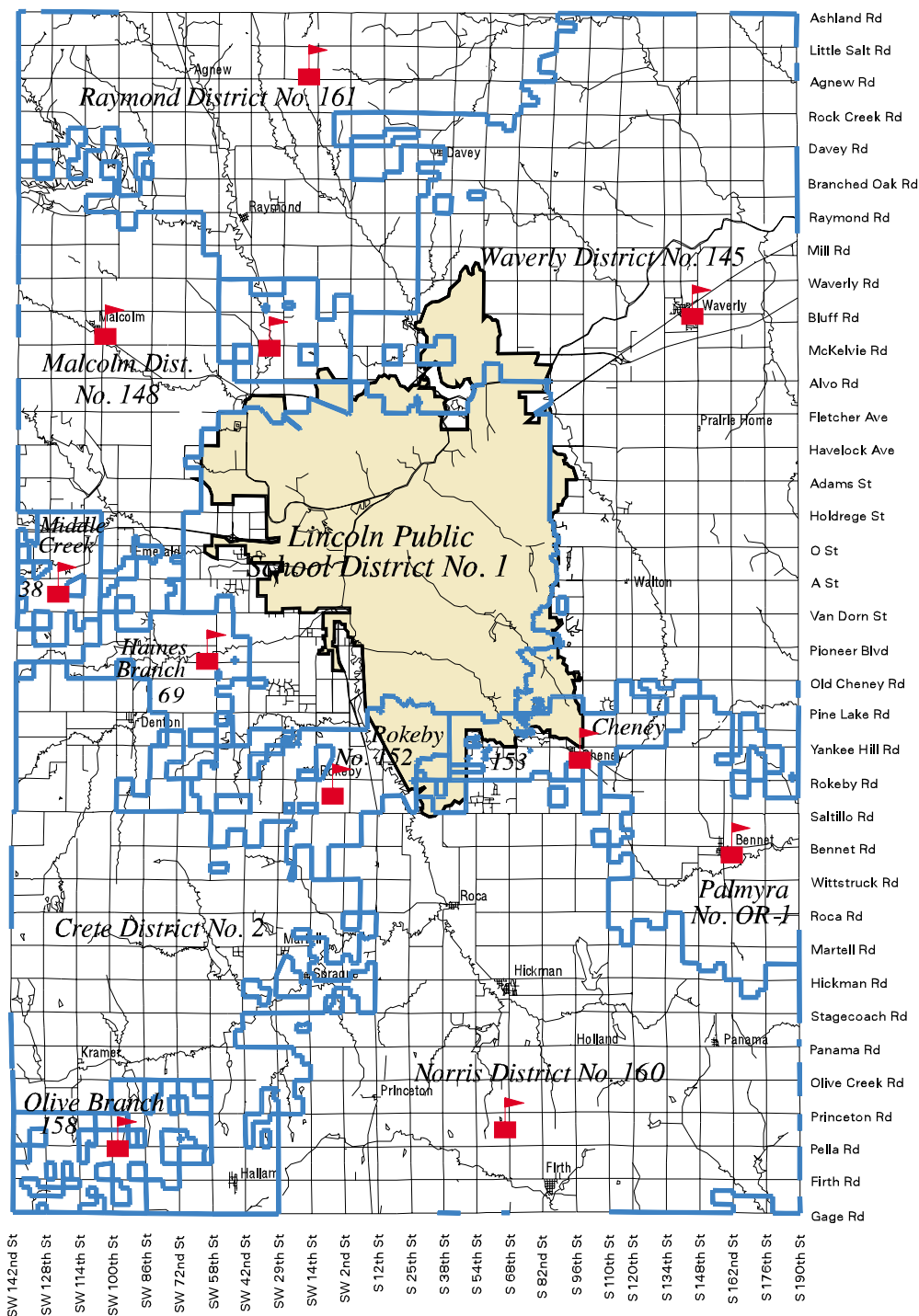
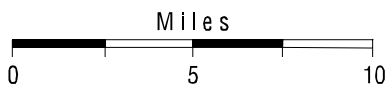


Figure 57  
Lancaster County School Districts



## Lincoln City/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan

- School District Boundary
- Lincoln Year 2015 Service Limit
- School Sites Outside District No. 1

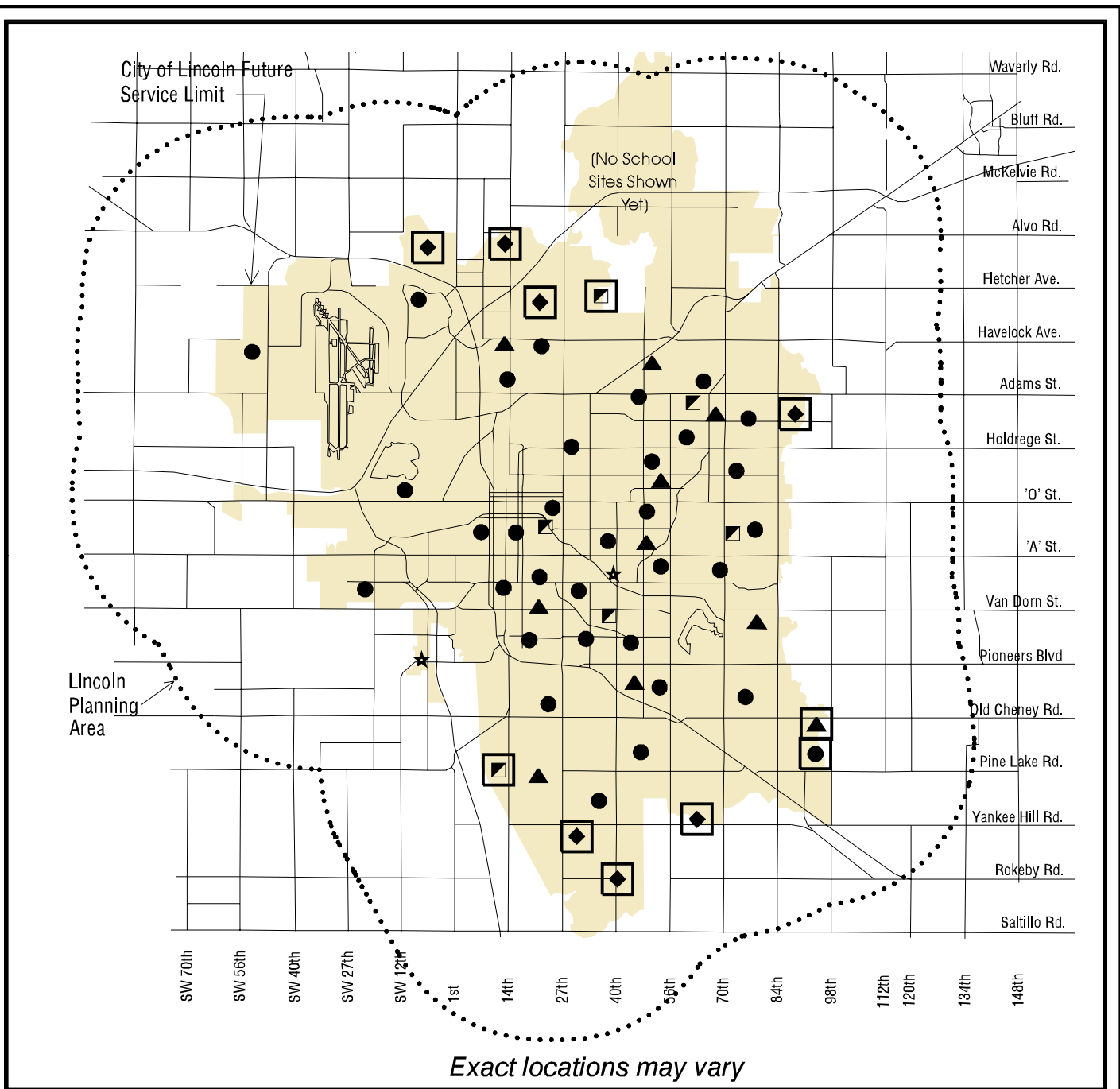


Figure 58

*Lincoln Public Schools: Existing and Future School Locations*



**Lincoln City/Lancaster County  
Comprehensive Plan**

- Elementary
- ▲ Middle
- ◻ Senior
- ★ Special
- ◻● Future Elementary
- ◻▲ Future Middle
- ◻◻ Future Senior
- ◻◇ Future School

The Lincoln Public Library system currently operates the following seven facilities: the Bennett Martin Public Library in Downtown, two major community branch libraries (Anderson and Gere), two neighborhood libraries (Bethany and South Street) and two mini-libraries (Arnold Heights and Belmont) and also the Book Mobile. (Amendment 9416)

The long range plan for the Lincoln Public Library as adopted by the Library Board includes the development of a community library system (Figure 59). This would include the development of two new community libraries: a new Southwest Branch near 14<sup>th</sup> and Thunderbird Blvd. and a new Northwest Branch at 14<sup>th</sup> and Superior Street. The consolidated library system will eventually consist of the main Bennett Martin Public Library and four branch libraries, one to serve each quadrant of the City. Other services to increase outreach in high impact neighborhoods and joint uses with other institutions shall be encouraged. (Amendment 9426)

Through contractual arrangement, residents living outside Lincoln, but within Lancaster County, have access to all services of Lincoln Public Libraries.

In addition to Lincoln Public Libraries, there are other publicly supported libraries in the community. Access to these other libraries is determined by each institution's governing body.

**Strategies:**

- £ Over the life of the plan, implement a community library system that will provide a central Downtown library and one community branch to serve each quadrant of Lincoln.
- £ Work with neighborhoods to identify needed library services and develop plans to fund and provide these services.
- £ Encourage LPS to open their libraries to public use in those areas not served by a public library.

## D. Public Safety and Health Services

*Goals*

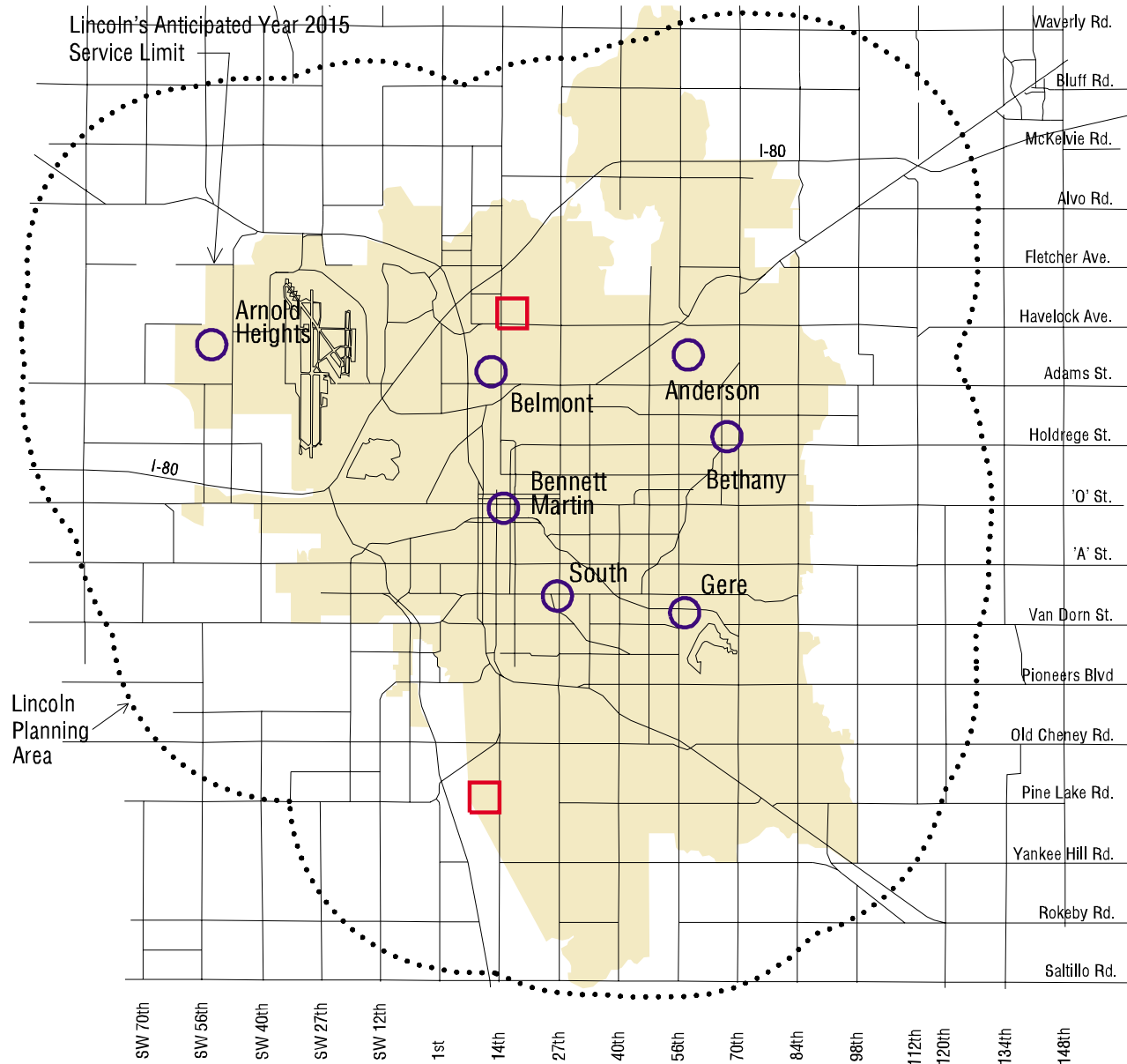
- ! *Provide and advocate for quality, affordable and accessible public safety, health and human services for every person in the entire community, and recognize that these services must be a high priority to enhance our quality of life.*
- ! *Increase cooperative public-private efforts targeted toward multi-use facilities and coordination of the design and delivery of a comprehensive range of public safety, health and human services.*
- ! *Increase community awareness of public safety, health and human services and sensitivity to the need for those services.*
- ! *Require that formal planning and evaluation of public safety, health and human services, programs, and systems occur on a regular basis.*
- ! *Involve the public, including service recipients, in all levels of planning, development, and evaluation of public safety, health and human services.*
- ! *Assure that every child and youth are provided adequate housing, nutrition, health care, protection, education, recreation and the creative freedom to develop his or her unique potential.*

Public safety and health services are critical to the well-being of the community. Facilities to house these services must be properly located, distributed and equipped.

### 1. Fire Protection

There are 17 fire districts in Lancaster County (see Figure 60) with the Lincoln Fire Department serving the largest population. (Amendment 9416)

The Lincoln Fire Department currently operates out of 13 stations located throughout the City (see Figure 61). The distribution of these stations is designed to offer the community an





**Figure 59**

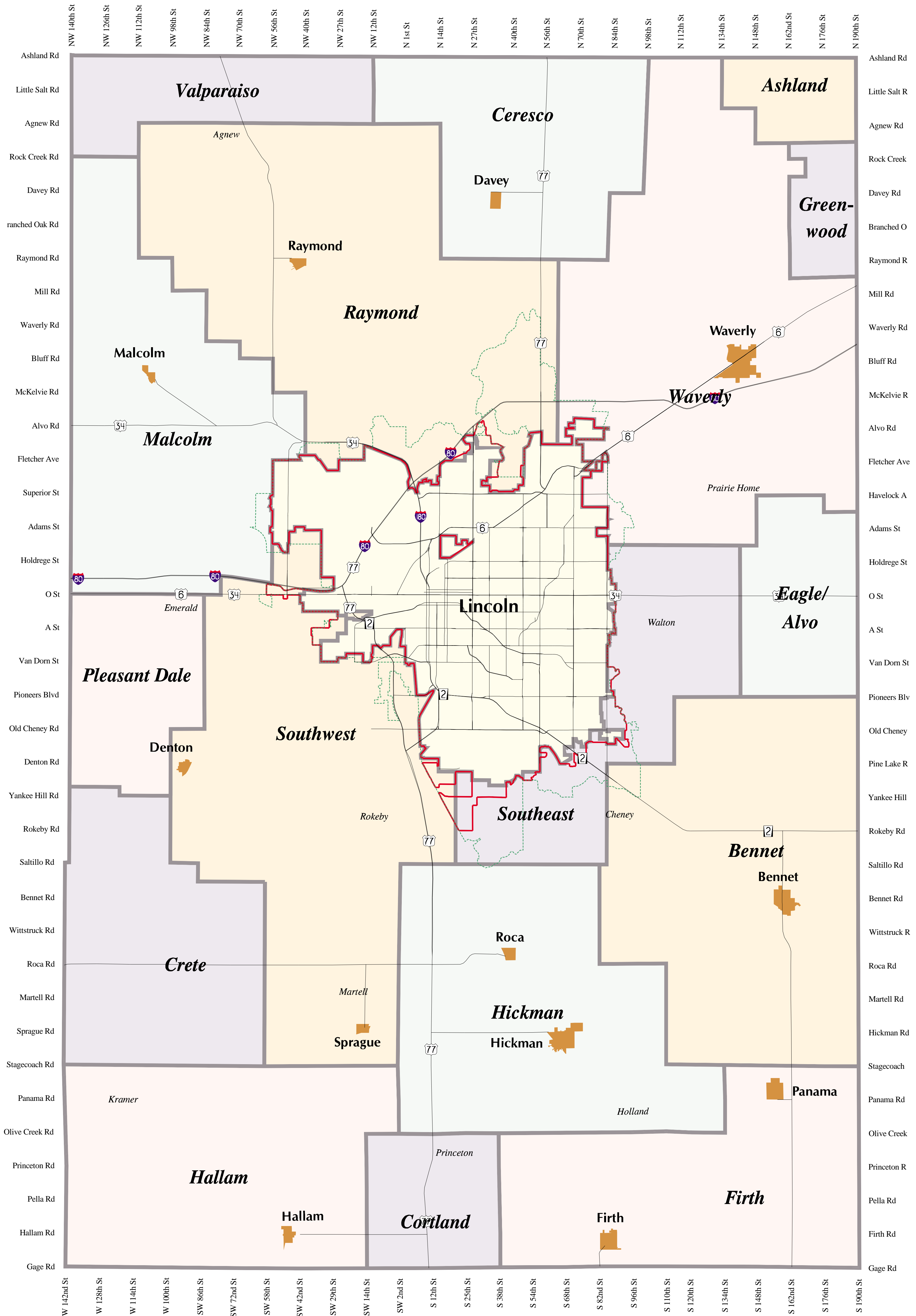
*Existing and Proposed Lincoln City Library Locations*




**Lincoln City/Lancaster County  
Comprehensive Plan**

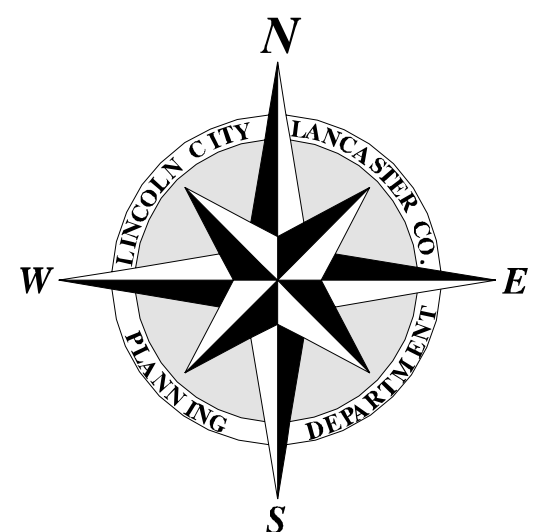
-  Existing Library
-  Proposed Library

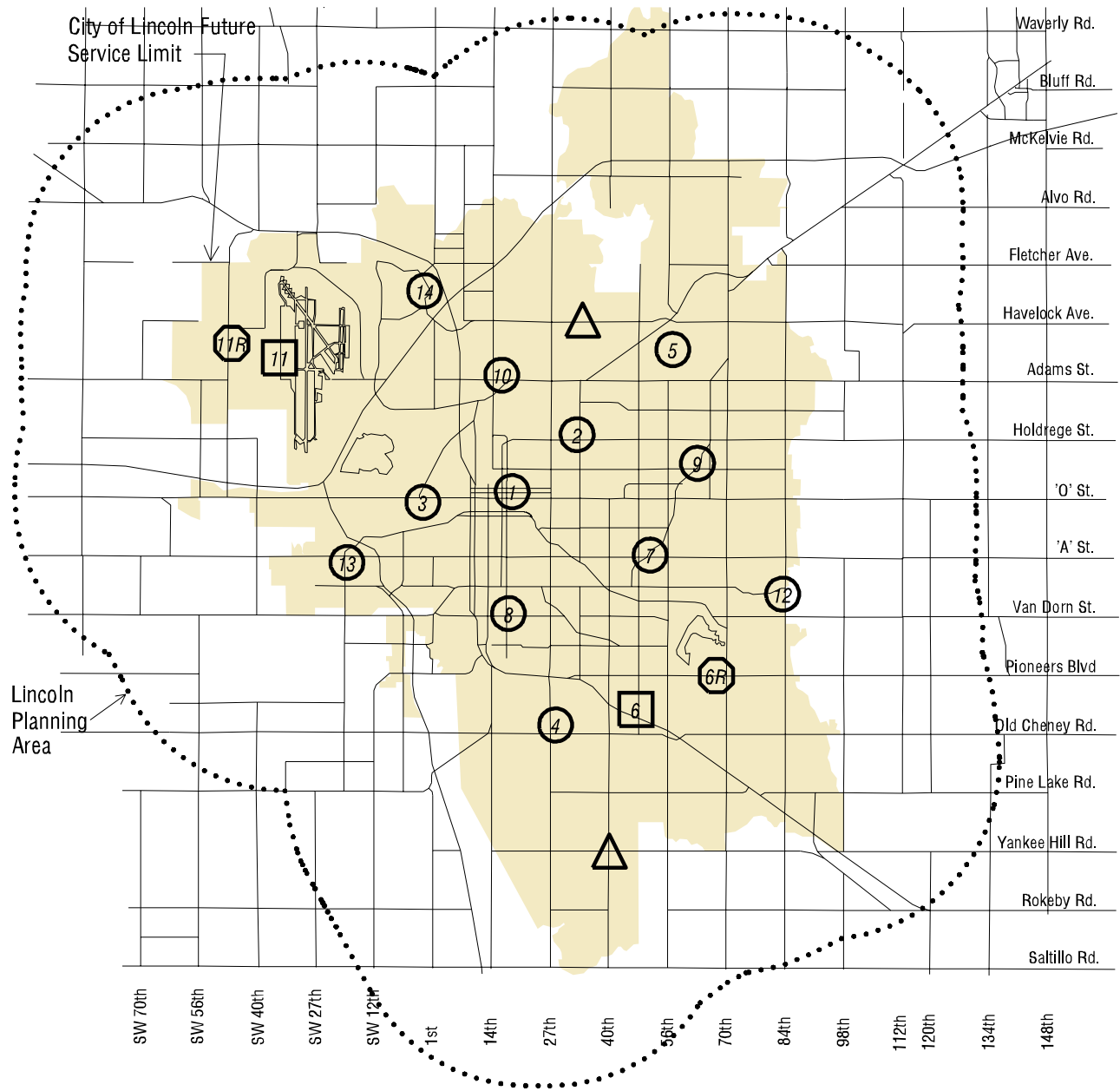
# LANCASTER COUNTY RURAL FIRE DISTRICTS



## LEGEND

-  Rural Fire District Boundaries  
 Lincoln Corporate Limits (7/99)  
 Lincoln Future Service Limit





Exact locations may vary

Figure 61

## Existing and Proposed City of Lincoln Fire Station Locations



## Lincoln City/Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan

- Existing Station (w/Station Number)
- Proposed for Relocation
- △ Proposed New Station
- Proposed Relocated Station



average three minute response time. Each station has from three to eight firefighters on duty working 24 hour rotating shifts. The Department Master Plan proposes four additional station locations to serve existing and future development. These include locations at NW 1st and Chadderton Circle, 33rd and Superior, and 84th and Pine Lake Road. They are also considering the relocation of three existing stations (i.e., the Arnold Heights/airport station, 48th and Claire, and 84th and South) in order to provide more efficient fire services.

The Lincoln Fire Department's equipment system is designed for use with a public water supply capable of generating 1,500 gallons of water per minute at a residual pressure of 50 psi.

All the rural fire districts are volunteer. The rural districts have unique problems to cope with, including distance and availability of water at the site.

## **2. Law Enforcement**

There are two local public safety law enforcement jurisdictions in Lancaster County:

- ! The Lancaster County Sheriff, and;
- ! The Lincoln Police Department.

Each of these agencies is currently operating within facilities which are considered inadequate by current professional standards, a problem currently under study by the Public Building Commission.

Law enforcement in the incorporated communities of Lancaster County other than Lincoln is provided under interlocal agreements with the County Sheriff's Department.

## **3. Health Services**

### *Goals*

- ! *Actively encourage the prevention of disease, disability, premature death, property loss, and social dysfunctions in order to enhance the quality of life.*
- ! *Develop Lincoln as the center for a network of regional health care services.*

Lincoln and Lancaster County are served by three hospitals and the Veteran's Administration Medical Center. Minor emergency medical services are also provided at several private facilities dispersed through the community. Emergency medical transportation services are provided through a combination of private and public providers. There are also a number of other specialized health care facilities, such as nursing homes, rehabilitation centers, and retirement centers.

The Health Care Industry is very important to the economy and well-being of the community. The expansion of the industry can be anticipated during the planning period. However, the expansion of major health care institutions in the developed areas of the community will have an impact upon abutting neighbors of the property. Health care institutions are encouraged to reduce the impacts of planned expansion on the neighborhood and the community as a whole; to notify neighbors and the community about long range institutional plans; and to coordinate long range institutional plans with the long range land use and capital improvement plans of the city.

The Lincoln/Lancaster County Health Department also provides a wide range of health related services to the residents of Lincoln and Lancaster County.

**E. Cultural Centers and Activities***Goals*

- ! Provide services to meet the needs of individuals in underserved populations in a manner that respects cultural diversity and individual dignity.*
- ! Cultivate the growth of cultural and artistic expression and appreciation in the community.*
- ! Celebrate the multi-cultural heritage of the community.*
- ! Encourage use of public arts through public and private investment, to enhance both existing and new developments.*

As Nebraska's capital and a city with many colleges, Lincoln provides a wealth of cultural and historical opportunities for recreation and exploration to the residents of the City and County. The Community Congress goals call for the growth of cultural and artistic expression in the community, a goal facilitated by our museums, art galleries, and performing arts facilities. The Malone Community Center, Hispanic Center, and the Indian/Multicultural Center and others also provide places to celebrate and preserve our ethnic and cultural heritage. An Asian Center is being planned.

**F. Other Public Buildings and Community Facilities**

The recently created Public Building Commission is responsible for facilities jointly used by City and County agencies, such as the County-City Building. The Commission is required to develop a plan for future development or improvement to other public facilities. Once developed, this plan should be incorporated as a part of this document. Currently, plans are being developed to convert the County-City Building to a "hall of justice" and relocate other City and County government offices Downtown.

As general purpose governments, the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County own, operate and manage numerous buildings, structures, and facilities. Most of these are directly displayed or reflected in the maps and text of the comprehensive plan. Among these are fire stations, libraries, park facilities (such as recreation and community centers, and golf course club houses), and utility facilities (such as water reservoirs and water production facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and structures pertaining to the City's sanitary landfill).

Other major public buildings, structures and facilities not otherwise mentioned or shown in the Comprehensive Plan include (address or nearest intersection location):

- " County-City Building (555 South 10th Street)
- " Old Federal Building (129 North 10th Street)
- " Old City Hall (920 'O' Street)
- " Pershing Municipal Auditorium (226 Centennial Mall South)
- " Burnham Yates Convention Center (13th and 'M' Streets)
- " Police/Data Processing Building (233 South 10th Street)
- " Lancaster County Extension and County Shop (444 Cherrycreek Road)
- " Health Department (3140 'N' Street)
- " Downtown Senior Center (1005 'O' Street)
- " Attention Center for Youth (2220 South 10th Street)
- " Election Commissioner (555 South 9th Street)
- " StarTran Administration and Maintenance (710 'J' Street)
- " Centrum Parking Garage (1100 'N' Street)
- " Cornhusker Square Parking Garage (1220 'L' Street)
- " University Square Parking Garage (101 North 14th Street)
- " Que Place Parking Garage ('Q' Street, 11th to 12th Streets)
- " Crossroads Parking Garage (10th and 'O' Streets)

- " Lincoln Water System Operations Center (2021 North 27th Street)
- " Lincoln Electric System Operations Center (27th and Fairfield)
- " State Capitol Building (14th and "K" Streets)
- " State Office Building (301 Centennial Mall South)
- " Federal Building (100 Centennial Mall North)
- " Nebraska Game and Parks Commission (2200 North 33rd Street)
- " Main U.S. Post Office (700 "R" Street)
- " Lincoln Public Schools Administration Building (5901 "O" Street)

As plans are made to build, expand or relocate the offices from any level of government, every effort should be made to locate them in Downtown Lincoln.